



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT OPERATIONS

Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: McNelis, Kathleen A)  
Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER  
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO  
Serial No: 10/789,694  
Filed: February 27, 2004  
Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED MATERIAL  
TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina  
January 20, 2006

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Mail Stop RCE  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT, RESPONSE, AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION (RCE) PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.114**

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed August 10, 2005, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**Amendment of the Claims** begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 5